



Montana
Office of Public Instruction
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TO: Montana School Administrators

FROM: Linda Vrooman Peterson, Administrator
Accreditation and Educator Preparation Division

SUBJECT: 2013 Montana Teacher Candidates Meet HQT Requirements

As of the spring of 2013, all Montana teacher candidates completing educator preparation programs through any of the accredited postsecondary institutions in Montana will have passed the Montana Assessment for Content Knowledge. This multiple measure assessment consists of: 1) content coursework GPA, 2) an assessment of content knowledge demonstrated during student teaching, and 3) a passing score on the appropriate Praxis II content knowledge test. The development and application of this policy is the result of ongoing dialogue and consensus between the Montana Office of Public Instruction and the Montana Council of Deans of Education. This policy ensures consistency across state programs. **This policy also assures Montana school districts that the 2013 Montana teacher candidates meet the federal highly qualified teacher (HQT) requirements as defined by the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) of 2001.**

To fulfill Board of Public Education requirements, every teacher teaching in Montana accredited schools must be licensed, endorsed, and appropriately assigned. To meet the federal HQT requirements, teachers also must demonstrate content knowledge prior to teaching core academic subject classes. The **core academic subjects**, as defined by the ESEA, include: English, reading, mathematics, science (biology, chemistry, earth science, physics, and physical science), civics and government, economics, history, geography, world languages, visual arts, and elementary curriculum. From this time forward, Montana teacher candidates will meet the HQT requirements in the following categories.

Elementary Education

To be recommended for licensure, elementary education teacher candidates must pass the Montana Assessment for Content Knowledge with a Content Knowledge Score (CKS) of 7. This multiple measure assessment consists of content coursework GPA, an assessment of content knowledge demonstrated during student teaching, and a passing score on the Praxis II Elementary Content Knowledge test (0014 or 5014).

Secondary and K-12 Education

To be recommended for licensure, secondary and K-12 education teacher candidates must pass the Montana Assessment for Content Knowledge with a CKS of 7. This multiple measure assessment consists of content coursework GPA, an assessment of content knowledge demonstrated during student teaching, and a passing score on the appropriate Praxis II content knowledge test.

Teaching Minors

To be recommended for licensure, teacher candidates earning a minor must complete the minor program of study and pass the appropriate Praxis II content knowledge test.

Teachers Adding Endorsements

Licensed teachers adding an endorsement must complete either the major or minor program of study and pass the appropriate Praxis II content knowledge test.

For more information, contact Linda Vrooman Peterson by telephone at (406) 444-5726, or by e-mail at lvpeterson@mt.gov. For information on Praxis II tests, go to the Educational Testing Service (ETS) Web site at www.ets.org.